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United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173, A/59/170, A/60/327, A/61/189, A/62/220, A/63/257, A/64/91, A/65/347, A/66/188, A/67/165, A/68/186, A/69/218 and A/70/202).

The United Nations Office for Partnerships strives to serve as a gateway for public-private partnerships in furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office oversees the following areas:

The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. At the end of 2015, the cumulative allocations as approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects to be implemented by the United Nations system reached approximately $1.4 billion. Of this amount, it is estimated that $0.45 billion (about 32 per cent) represents core Turner funds and $0.96 billion (about 68 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. The total number of United Nations projects and programmes supported through the end of 2015 by the Foundation through UNFIP stands at 592. Collectively, these projects are implemented by 43 United Nations entities in 124 countries.

The United Nations Democracy Fund, which was established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization around the world. It focuses on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund,

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the Office has channelled approximately $154 million to almost 600 projects in more than 130 countries around the world, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and youth to media programmes that allow civil society to project its voice.

The Office also provides **partnership advisory and outreach services** in response to demand from the United Nations system, governments and non-State actors to catalyse public-private partnerships through high-impact events and advice to potential partners regarding opportunities and good practices to promote the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for action.

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I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

1. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. The work of UNFIP is overseen by the UNFIP Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.

2. As at 31 December 2015, the cumulative allocations approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects reached approximately $1.4 billion. Of that amount, $0.45 billion (about 32 per cent) comes from core Turner funds and $0.96 billion (about 68 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. Since its inception, 592 projects have been implemented or are under implementation by 43 United Nations entities in 124 countries. During 2015, the Foundation approved projects totalling $46.1 million, the majority ($42.6 million) focused on global health. The selection of projects and initiatives supported by the Foundation through UNFIP is highlighted in the present report.

3. The United Nations Foundation was founded by Ted Turner as a public charity in the United States of America to demonstrate the value of investing in the United Nations, encourage other sectors to work with the United Nations, and promote strong United States leadership at the United Nations. The Foundation's activities have evolved from its early years, which were focused more exclusively on grant-making, to the current model of communicating, championing, convening and fostering collaboration, in addition to continuing to channel resources in support of United Nations goals.

4. The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, as established in 1998, has been renewed twice, first in 2007 and again in 2014, when the partnership was renewed for an additional 10-year period under a Revised and Restated Relationship Agreement, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships (A/70/202). A Joint Coordinating Committee, established under the new Agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination between the United Nations and the Foundation. The Joint Coordination Committee met three times in 2015.

Support for innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives

5. The Foundation collaborates with the United Nations to foster innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives to secure better and healthier lives for people across the globe by focusing on global health; women, girls and population; and energy and climate.

6. While the Foundation has largely concentrated on the same areas of focus since its inception, its strategy and methods of work have evolved as follows:

(a) **Communicating**. The Foundation deploys a diverse set of communications tools to build informed public support for the United Nations, as well as to give wider visibility to issues that are high on its agenda. This work is conducted in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information and other communications colleagues across the United Nations system;

(b) **Championing**. The Foundation champions the United Nations and United Nations causes through global and United States-based advocacy initiatives

that connect citizens to the United Nations. The Foundation helps to foster a common understanding about the mission of the United Nations and also helps to ensure strong and sustained United States Government support for the United Nations;

(c) **Convening**. The Foundation collaborates with various United Nations entities to convene stakeholders and foster dialogue on a range of issues, including in the lead-up to important milestone events such as the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa, and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York;

(d) **Collaborating**. The Foundation has become an institutional home for a number of multi-stakeholder collaborations and partnerships in support of the Organization's global development priorities;

(e) **Channelling**. The Foundation continues to work with stakeholders to mobilize and channel resources to the United Nations system through UNFIP.

A. Global health

7. Enhancing the Organization's global health agenda has been one of the United Nations Foundation's long-standing objectives. The Foundation leverages its expertise and resources to help the United Nations address global health priorities, including delivering life-saving vaccines and anti-malaria nets, empowering women and girls with the tools to plan their families and have safe pregnancies and preventing household air pollution by providing clean cookstoves to families.

8. The Foundation has worked in close collaboration with UNFIP, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support a number of key global health campaigns and initiatives working to eliminate preventable diseases such as polio, measles, rubella and malaria.

9. During 2015, the Foundation also continued its efforts to mobilize attention and resources to support the United Nations response to the Ebola virus outbreak.

Every Woman, Every Child

10. The United Nations Foundation has collaborated closely with the United Nations to build strong support among multi-stakeholder partners for Every Woman, Every Child. Launched by the Secretary-General during the Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010, Every Woman, Every Child is a global movement that mobilizes international and national action by governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society to address major health challenges facing women and children around the world. The initiative put into action the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health to accelerate progress on Goals 4, 5 and 6 of the Millennium Development Goals.

11. On 26 September 2015, the Secretary-General launched an updated Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) to support

the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals. Including ambitious targets, and fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the updated Global Strategy offers a universal and broader road map to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents. With an emphasis on multisectoral dimensions of well-being, the Global Strategy aims to ensure that women, children and adolescents not only survive but also thrive and transform the world by 2030.

12. With guidance from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Foundation also managed global advocacy and communications for the initiative and conducted outreach to the private sector, including the collection of new commitments to the updated Global Strategy. The Foundation continues to support the movement, including through the "Everywhere work stream", focused on the health of women, children and adolescents living in the most fragile circumstances.

Measles and rubella

13. The Measles and Rubella Initiative is a global partnership, launched in 2001, committed to reducing measles deaths and limiting the number of children born with congenital rubella syndrome. The Initiative is led jointly by WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Foundation. The Initiative aims to advance the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012-2020 by helping countries to increase vaccination coverage for measles, rubella and other preventable diseases; fund, plan, implement and monitor quality supplementary campaigns; investigate outbreaks; and provide technical and financial support for effective disease surveillance and outbreak response.

14. The Foundation has been a long-standing partner of the Measles and Rubella Initiative and continues to play an important role as an advocate, fundraiser and fiduciary, including through the Shot@Life campaign. Shot@Life engages civil society, policymakers and partners to decrease vaccine-preventable childhood deaths by supporting the efforts of UNICEF and WHO. The Foundation leverages Shot@Life to educate, connect and empower the United States public to champion vaccines and United States bilateral funding for measles and rubella. During 2015, a total of $34.5 million was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF and WHO in support of Initiative activities around the world.

Polio

15. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is a public-private partnership led by five core partners: the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International, UNICEF, WHO and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Since its inception in 1988, the Initiative has immunized more than 2.5 billion children worldwide and raised more than $10 billion with the goal of creating a polio-free world. The United Nations Foundation supports the Initiative through global and United States-focused advocacy, communications and public outreach and through the provision of grants to United Nations partners.

16. The Foundation's advocacy, communications and the provision of grants with regard to polio is guided by the Initiative's Polio Advocacy and Communication Team's annual strategy and workplan. Similar to the Measles and Rubella Initiative noted above, the Foundation leverages the Shot@Life campaign to educate, connect

and empower the United States public to champion vaccines and United States bilateral funding for polio.

17. In 2015, the Foundation built on its partnership with Walgreens, the largest pharmacy chain in the United States, to raise awareness and help provide vaccines to children in developing countries through the "Get a Shot. Give a Shot." campaign. Starting in September 2015, for every vaccine administered in the United States at Walgreens pharmacies, an amount equivalent to the price of one vaccine was donated to the campaign. Walgreens also actively publicizes this partnership through messaging to the public that communicates the importance of immunization as well as the work of UNICEF worldwide.

18. During 2015, more than $730,000 was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF to finance the procurement of approximately 4.5 million doses of oral polio vaccines for a subnational polio campaign in Afghanistan to vaccinate children under the age of 5. An additional grant of more than $133,800 was disbursed to UNICEF to support polio eradication initiatives in Somalia, aimed at the vaccination of children on the move at international borders. Both of the grants were made in the wider context of the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan (2013-2018) with funds raised through the Shot@Life campaign.

Ebola crisis response

19. In September 2014 the Secretary-General launched the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund in response to the Ebola outbreak to unite efforts of all concerned United Nations entities and act as a platform for the global control of the outbreak. Funding was directed by Mission officials towards the priority financial needs of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes working on the response. In early 2015, the United Nations Foundation made a contribution of $130,000 through UNFIP to the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

20. Since the onset of the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa, thousands of health-care workers and support staff have travelled to the region to assist in the international response effort. Hundreds of those health-care workers were subsequently diagnosed with the Ebola virus. In that context, the Foundation provided a grant through UNFIP to WHO of $2,280,727 to help cover the travel and associated health-care costs of health workers medically evacuated from Ebola-affected countries.

Malaria (Nothing But Nets campaign)

21. Nothing But Nets is a global grass-roots campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria through the provision of life-saving bednets and other malaria interventions. The Nothing But Nets online giving platform allows for individuals around the world to join the fight against malaria by purchasing and sending bednets to malaria-affected communities and advocating to policymakers to increase United States investments in malaria interventions.

22. Nothing But Nets works primarily with UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR to purchase insecticide-treated bednets and distribute them to affected countries in Africa. Net distributions are typically part of a wider public health effort within a country coordinated by its Ministry of Health, the United Nations and other local and international organizations.

23. In 2015, the United Nations Foundation provided a grant of $257,864 through UNFIP to UNHCR to implement a malaria prevention project for Nigerian refugees in both the Niger and Chad and for Sudanese refugees in Chad.

B. Women, girls and population

24. Empowering and addressing the needs of women and girls is key to alleviating poverty, achieving justice and enhancing the progress of the global development agenda. Lack of adequate education and family planning services leads to the persistence of chronic poverty, high child and maternal mortality, early marriage, vulnerability to exploitation and a diminished voice in public life.

25. Over the years, the United Nations Foundation has worked with United Nations partners, including UNFPA, UN-Women, UNICEF and UNHCR, to promote gender equality, improve maternal health care, advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, advocate for stronger support for rights of adolescent girls and eliminate gender-based violence.

Family Planning 2020

26. Family Planning 2020 is a global partnership that works with governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, the private sector and the research and development community to enable 120 million more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. An outcome of the London Summit on Family Planning, held in 2012, Family Planning 2020 is based on the principle that all women, no matter where they live, should have access to life-saving contraceptives.

27. The United Nations Foundation serves as the secretariat to the initiative, which is co-chaired by UNFPA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

28. Achieving the goals of Family Planning 2020 will be critical to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights by 2030, as laid out in Goals 3 and 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative also supports and aligns with the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

29. More than 80 formal commitments have been made to the Family Planning 2020 initiative since its launch in 2012. In late 2015, the initiative's secretariat conducted an extensive strategic review of the partnership's progress to date, which led to the development and launch of a new strategy for 2016-2020. The new strategy emphasizes four cross-cutting priorities: country support; data and performance management; global advocacy, rights and youth; and knowledge and evidence.

Girl Up campaign

30. In September 2010, in response to calls by UNFPA and other United Nations organizations for intensified efforts to address the needs and rights of adolescent girls, the United Nations Foundation launched Girl Up, an innovative advocacy and fundraising campaign that engages teen girls across the United States and around the world to improve the lives of adolescent girls. Girl Up has inspired more than 1,350 clubs in 80 countries around the world, in which members learn about the issues faced by adolescent girls and take action to make change.

31. In 2015, through Girl Up's partners and fundraising efforts, the Foundation provided a grant of $575,000 through UNFIP in support of UNFPA Action for Adolescent Girls programme activities in India and Guatemala. The initiative seeks to protect the rights of adolescent girls, in particular by delaying the ages at which they marry and bear children, empowering the most marginalized girls and elevating their status in their communities. The programme uses an evidenced-based approach aimed at strengthening "protective assets" for girls (e.g., health, social and economic) that targets the most marginalized populations.

32. Through the Girl Up campaign, the Foundation also provided a grant of $856,306 in support of a United Nations system inter-agency programme in Guatemala to promote the rights and leadership of indigenous adolescent girls and to assist in providing them with the necessary skills to actively participate in making decisions that affect their lives. The United Nations implementing partners for this initiative include UNICEF, UN-Women, WHO, UNFPA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

33. In addition, the Foundation and the Girl Up campaign supported the UNHCR Educate Girls Ideas Challenge, launched in September 2014. In 2015, the Foundation provided a grant of $50,000 to assist adolescent girls in the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan to increase their literacy skills and educational attainment. Approximately 1,000 refugee girls were provided with a virtual library of educational resources, together with a learning management system, to assist them in a structured self-paced learning programme. In addition to that grant, the Foundation and the Girl Up campaign supported the #educategirls social media campaign.

C. Energy and climate

34. Since its inception, the United Nations Foundation has been working closely with the United Nations to help achieve progress towards a safer, cleaner, more equitable and climate-friendly energy future. The Foundation has championed action on a range of global climate and energy issues, especially through its support of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched by the Secretary-General and now an international not-for-profit organization.

Sustainable Energy for All

35. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative seeks to mobilize action from all sectors of society in support of three interlinked objectives to be achieved by 2030: ensuring universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

36. In 2015, the United Nations Foundation continued its support of Sustainable Energy for All through thought leadership, strategic communications and convening and partnership-building. Support has been focused on three main sub-initiatives:

(a) **Energy for Women's and Children's Health**. This partnership between the Foundation, WHO and UN-Women uses the international framework of the initiative to help mobilize and coordinate engagement at the nexus of energy, health care and women. Through UNFIP, the Foundation provided a $100,000 grant to

WHO to help build the evidence base for energy-health linkages, and a $75,000 grant to UN-Women to raise public awareness about and mobilize key stakeholders for health clinic electrification in Uganda in 2015. That work was done in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the Government of Uganda. The Foundation also partnered with UNICEF in Uganda to support the deployment of 50 solar suitcases in health clinics;

(b) **Energy Access Practitioner Network**. The network is a global platform that brings together energy service providers and stakeholders from around the world to support the delivery of clean, reliable and affordable decentralized energy solutions;

(c) **Clean Energy Mini-Grids**. The Foundation helps lead a Clean Energy Mini-Grids consortium of more than 300 organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), private and public sector organizations and civil society. The consortium uses the international framework of Sustainable Energy for All to enable, enhance and promote existing and upcoming efforts in the mini-grids sector, with a view to increasing the rate of deployment and the impact on market transformation.

37. In 2015, the Foundation also provided a $250,000 grant through UNFIP to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help support the costs of staff, travel and international consultants working to support the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative's activities.

38. At the end of 2015, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative transitioned to become an international non-profit organization, hosted by the Government of Austria.

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

39. The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public-private partnership hosted by the United Nations Foundation to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance has a 10-year goal to foster the adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels in 100 million households by 2020. The Alliance is working with a network of public, private and non-profit partners to help overcome the market barriers that currently impede the production, deployment and use of clean cookstoves in developing countries.

40. In 2015, the Foundation provided, through UNFIP, $379,955 in grants to support WHO in its efforts to build the capacity of the health sector to understand and engage with different stakeholders who are working to improve access to modern energy in homes while reducing household air pollution. Through a regional workshop, the development and piloting of a policy-planning tool and communications activities, the project aims to build on the findings and recommendations of the first-ever WHO guidelines for indoor air quality to support the development and implementation of healthy home energy interventions.

Engaging weathercasters as climate change communicators

41. In 2015, the United Nations Foundation provided $200,000, through UNFIP, to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to support the capacity of weathercasters to more effectively communicate information about climate change.

The project aims to improve the access of weathercasters to WMO climate information and resources, strengthen the international network of weathercasters on climate forecasting and enable weathercasters to more effectively cover the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which took place in Paris in 2015.

D. Advocacy, communication and other development-related issues

42. As in previous years, the United Nations Foundation directed its communications and advocacy strategy towards raising the visibility of the work of the United Nations in close collaboration with the United Nations system. In 2015, those efforts focused on creating advocacy platforms and tools to support a robust global communications strategy with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and climate change in the lead-up to the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Seventieth anniversary of the United Nations

43. The United Nations Foundation, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, conducted a number of activities to increase awareness of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations. The Foundation helped to organize the Secretary-General's trip to San Francisco, California, in June 2015, to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. The Foundation also financially supported the Norman Rockwell "We the Peoples" exhibit at United Nations Headquarters from June to December 2015, as well as the issuance of a book focusing on the architecture of the Headquarters.

Support for the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and for the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

44. In 2015, as world leaders gathered first at United Nations Headquarters in New York and then in Paris to take historic action on sustainable development and climate change, respectively, the United Nations Foundation partnered with 25 media organizations to expand and elevate the conversation and reporting with regard to those issues. The Foundation also partnered with a number of organizations, including the Thomson Reuters Foundation, to inform and train more than 1,000 journalists from 36 countries on sustainable development issues. The training sessions took place in more than 30 cities and in several languages, connecting reporters, editors and communicators from the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations.

45. The Foundation also launched the "Communications Corps": an informal network of public relations, marketing and digital media experts who lent their expertise and provided pro bono assets to support communications about the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Foundation launched the GlobalDaily.org and GlobalGoals.org platforms (the latter in partnership with Project Everyone) to aggregate, distribute and highlight press about the Goals.

46. In support of the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Foundation assembled a diverse

coalition of more than 100 partners called "Earth To Paris" to highlight the connection between people and planet and the need for strong climate action, to showcase climate solutions and innovations, to bring together communities to promote collaboration and to engage people around the world in the dialogue taking place in Paris. United Nations partners included UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Global Compact, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Global Pulse. According to the Foundation, that virtual mobilization resulted in more than 1.4 billion impressions on social and traditional media and reached more than 100 million individuals.

Sixth annual Social Good Summit

47. The Social Good Summit is a unique convening of prominent global figures, new media and technology experts, grass-roots activists and voices from around the world. In 2015, the Social Good Summit was convened in an unprecedented 109 country office locations in coordination with UNDP, in addition to the main Summit event convened in New York on 27 and 28 September. The Social Good Summit, for which the theme in 2015 was "New Goals. New Power. New Technology. #2030NOW." was translated into seven languages, capturing 1.8 million impressions worldwide through social media, as reported by the United Nations Foundation. The Foundation also provided a grant in the amount of $40,000 to UNDP to support exemplary national-level Social Good Summit events in three target countries — Kenya, Pakistan and Rwanda — intended to serve as good-practice models for UNDP country offices around the world.

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

48. The United Nations Foundation was selected in November 2015 to serve as the institutional home for the secretariat of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, which was launched in September 2015 on the sidelines of the seventieth session of the General Assembly. The Global Partnership is a multi-stakeholder network comprising more than 100 members from governments, international organizations, companies, civil society and statistics and data communities. The Global Partnership aims to fill critical data gaps and ensure that data are more accurate, timely, open and useable for the measurement and achievement of inclusive and sustainable development. The Global Partnership serves as a convener, connector and catalyst, building trust and encouraging collaboration among stakeholders across sectors towards those aims.

Data2X

49. Launched in July 2012, Data2X is a collaborative technical and advocacy platform that works with United Nations agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector to close gender data gaps, promote expanded and unbiased gender data collection and use gender data to improve policies, strategies and decision-making. Data2X is led by the United Nations Foundation with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Data2X is also a gender data lead within the new Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

50. Data2X works with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on regional partnerships by

supporting and strengthening efforts to collect data on gender and national civil registration and vital statistics. Data2X works closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Bank to design and pilot surveys that are inclusive of women's paid and unpaid work. This partnership currently includes a grant of $250,000, provided through UNFIP to ILO. Data2X also works with Global Pulse, UN-Women and individual academic researchers to explore how different methods of collecting and analysing big data could potentially close global gender gaps.

Global Pulse: big data for development

51. The Secretary-General launched Global Pulse in 2009 to support the United Nations system in generating more timely information to track and monitor the impacts of socioeconomic crises and exploit the opportunities offered by big data. Global Pulse is an inter-agency initiative designed to contribute to the "Delivering as one" approach to strengthen the capacity of governments to measure development effectiveness and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and now the Sustainable Development Goals.

52. Global Pulse partners with United Nations agencies, governments, academia and the private sector to develop and mainstream approaches for applying real-time digital data to development and humanitarian challenges.

53. In 2015, the United Nations Foundation provided four project grants totalling more than $672,700 to Global Pulse through UNFIP in support of several emerging areas of work, including measuring climate resilience, expanding the use of big data for gender, analysing public sentiment on vaccination campaigns and demonstrating the potential for big data to garner insights to help reduce instances of child marriage.

II. United Nations Democracy Fund

54. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established during the 2005 World Summit as a United Nations General Trust Fund and launched in April 2006, with the United Nations Office for Partnerships/UNFIP providing administrative support and resource-sharing. Since then, the grant-making body has become clearly defined as a fund for civil society organizations. It is the only United Nations entity that has the word "democracy" in its name, the only United Nations body with the primary purpose of supporting democracy through empowering civil society and one of the youngest entities in the United Nations system. The large majority of project funds go to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting the "demand" rather than the "supply" side of democratization, the Fund plays a new, distinct and unique role in complementing and enhancing the more traditional work of the United Nations — the work with governments — to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

55. In the years since its creation, the Fund has experienced considerable growth in its portfolio, its donor base, its impact and its visibility. Its projects aim to strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. It also supports a number of major global and regional projects with a normative and policy focus. In its first

nine rounds of funding, the Fund supported almost 600 projects in more than 130 countries, with a total disbursement of more than $154 million. The projects ranged from supporting civil society efforts for accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening good governance and the rule of law.

56. A key part of the Fund's mission is to ensure that all levels of government are accountable to those they serve by increasing the knowledge, capacity, voice and reach of citizens' organizations. With the adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Fund undertook to prioritize projects that, inter alia, hold governments accountable with regard to working to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

A. Ninth round of funding

57. The call for proposals for the Fund's ninth round was open from 15 November to 31 December 2014. The Fund received 2,331 project proposals from civil society, reflecting the continued high demand for support from the Fund to finance projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The proposals originated from organizations in 143 countries, the vast majority of them local non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

58. The response added further to the considerable growth the Fund has experienced since its creation in 2005, with initiatives that reflect a focus on strengthening the voice of civil society, thereby increasing concentration on the demand side of democracy, rather than on the supply side.

59. In the ninth round, 51 projects were funded at a total cost of $8,878,000. As defined by their key activities, the projects broke down as follows:

(a) Youth engagement (48 per cent);

(b) Rule of law and human rights (17 per cent);

(c) Community activism (11 per cent);

(d) Strengthening interaction with governments (10 per cent);

(e) Media and freedom of information (8 per cent);

(f) Women's empowerment (6 per cent).

60. The emphasis on youth engagement projects in round nine reflected the fact that today, one person in five is between the ages of 15 and 24. Never before has the transition from youth to adulthood come with such challenges and opportunities. Young people have abilities to network that would have been unimaginable when the United Nations was founded 70 years ago. They are connecting about issues that matter, ranging from injustice, discrimination and climate change to human rights and the need for human solidarity. The emphasis also reflected a turning point for the United Nations, as the international community strived to agree on new Sustainable Development Goals and a new universal and meaningful climate agreement — commitments that those who are young today will have to live with and carry forward.

B. Donor base

61. The cumulative total amount of contributions received from 2005 to 2015 exceeded $169 million.

C. Evaluation

62. The Fund's contracted firm of internationally renowned evaluators, Transtec, had completed more than 170 post-project evaluations by the end of 2015. The vast majority of the evaluations were positive, while also providing valuable lessons learned for the Fund's knowledge management. The Fund published all post-project evaluations on its public website, as decided by its Advisory Board. In that way, the Fund consolidated its position as one of the most transparent entities in the United Nations system.

D. Governance

63. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund, the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group, continued to play an active and guiding role during 2015. In addition to recommending funding proposals for the Secretary-General's approval, the Advisory Board provided the Secretary-General with policy guidance on the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines. The Programme Consultative Group provided input and quality control in the project selection process and the implementation phase, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women.

E. Tenth round of funding

64. The United Nations Democracy Fund launched its tenth round of calls for project proposals in November 2015. When applications closed on 31 December 2015, the Fund had received 2,664 project proposals. The vast majority of applications came from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the annual timetable adhered to by the Fund, tenth round applications were to be assessed by March 2016 and the Advisory Board was to recommend a short list in May, after which the Fund was to advise Permanent Missions of Member States in which listed projects were to take place. The short list of projects was to aim at prioritizing, inter alia, initiatives that were to hold governments accountable on working to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. The short list was then to be submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Short-listed applicants were to be asked to submit draft project documents by midyear, to be negotiated with the Fund, and the first tranches of project funding were to be disbursed by September, once again in a timeline that compares favourably with international standards.

F. Democracy in action

65. Examples of the United Nations Democracy Fund's projects are listed below.

Strengthening civil participation in journalism and data-based investigative reporting in Argentina

66. In Argentina, a project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund launched a number of investigative journalism initiatives to promote citizen involvement in the monitoring of public affairs and improve their access to data and information. The project aims to engage citizens in the production of news content and enhance their access to data. It works with local journalists to give citizens more of a say in gathering and processing data for investigations and to use the opportunities made available to them for monitoring and demanding accountability from their leaders. The project also aims to provide better data about the topics covered by the investigations, and innovate in media and journalism by conducting data-based and crowdsourced investigative reporting for the first time in the country. The project will be complemented by a media and social networks campaign.

Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab civil society agenda

67. Another project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund works in five countries in the Middle East and North Africa (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) with the goal of enhancing the participation of civil society organizations in the sustainable development agenda. The project aims to increase accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals through building a permanent Arab forum that will build capacity, promote social dialogue and influence policymaking. In a recent report on the Arab Millennium Development Goals,[1] it was shown that Arab countries had achieved progress on many indicators, especially progress towards education targets. However, they had failed in promoting inclusive development and were faced with tackling socioeconomic development challenges to address the aspirations of citizens. The project aims to address the process of democratic transition in the Arab region, with a focus on socioeconomic reforms.

Using access to information to foster open expenditure and budget transparency in Liberia

68. A project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund in Liberia works against corruption by fostering transparency in the run-up to the third post-civil war national elections taking place in 2017. The project started by identifying local citizen-based organizations that can engage at the community level with discussions and awareness-raising on the impact of corruption. The project also identified individual journalists working at local radio stations to investigate development projects and be trained in anti-corruption reporting. A team of anti-corruption champions based at community radio stations is being activated to advocate for redress and monitor and increase public awareness in the fight against corruption.

[1] Available from undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/MDGS%20publications/Arab_MDGR_2013_English.pdf.

III. Partnership advisory and outreach services

69. The United Nations system has collaborated with the private sector, academia and civil society for a number of years. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see General Assembly resolution 60/1), Member States recognized the importance of, and expressed strong support for, the active engagement of non-State actors in promoting the development agenda of the United Nations system.

70. Likewise, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Member States at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, includes, under Sustainable Development Goal 17, entitled "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development", a call for enhanced global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Goals. The 2030 Agenda also encourages effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

71. To promote the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Office for Partnerships collaborates with the United Nations Foundation, United Nations programmes, funds and agencies, Member States, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to convene innovative events and provides advice to potential partners regarding collaborative opportunities and good practices.

72. In 2015, a wide range of companies, foundations and non-governmental organizations approached the Office to explore opportunities for engagement with the United Nations and offer assistance to pool expertise and resources to address issues on the United Nations agenda. They sought advice on how to specifically partner with the United Nations to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to learn about collaborative opportunities related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

73. Selected key partnership projects and initiatives are listed below.

Permanent memorial at the United Nations to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

74. The United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to support the permanent memorial project and administer the Trust Fund account in relation to receipts, allocations and disbursements of the resources. As at 31 December 2015, the total contributions received were $2,170,983, primarily from Member States. The permanent memorial, entitled *Ark of Return*, was unveiled on 25 March 2015. The memorial, located at the Visitors' Plaza at United Nations Headquarters, invites people to contemplate the legacy of the slave trade and to fight against racism and prejudice today.

Youth Assembly at the United Nations (winter and summer sessions)

75. On 11 and 12 February 2015, the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation and the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations convened, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the United Nations Foundation and Microsoft, the winter session of the 2015 Youth Assembly. The event aimed to foster conversation among a group of 500 international students, United Nations

representatives, the private sector and civil society in order to educate and encourage young people to become active participants in the success of the Sustainable Development Goals.

76. As part of this event, the Office organized a panel discussion on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development featuring the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, together with United Nations Foundation and ILO representatives.

77. The summer session of the Youth Assembly, organized by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations, as well as other Permanent Missions, took place from 5 to 7 August 2015. The United Nations Office for Partnerships curated and moderated a panel discussion on multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives, including speakers representing the United Nations Foundation, the Zero Hunger Challenge and Global Pulse. The other discussions addressed topics such as the Sustainable Development Goals and new technologies, and the financial responsibility of youth.

International Women's Day Forum: "The empowerment bridge: building a lifetime of opportunity for women and girls"

78. On 4 and 5 March 2015, the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the United Nations Office for Partnerships, UN-Women and Microsoft jointly convened the fifth annual forum on the occasion of International Women's Day. The forum brought together more than 250 public and private sector leaders to explore empowerment solutions to increase gender equality and economic independence for women and girls around the world. The forum discussed various ways to empower women and foster entrepreneurship as well as the role of the business community in the Sustainable Development Goals. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning delivered introductory remarks at the panel discussion on the role of the business community in promoting the Goals. The panel discussion examined specific partnership strategies that aim to reinforce the universal, integrated and transformative nature of the Goals.

High-level panel discussion on "Catalytic partnerships for gender equality in education: the way forward"

79. On 10 March 2015, UNESCO, UN-Women, UNFPA, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the World Bank jointly convened a high-level panel discussion on the role of partnerships to achieve gender equality in education. Featured as a side event to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the list of speakers included the Minister for Women, Children and Youth Affairs of Ethiopia; the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations; the Director General of UNESCO; the Executive Director of UNFPA; the Executive Director of UN-Women; and representatives of the World Bank; the United Nations Foundation; and Voss Foundation. Drawing on successful case studies, the panel discussion explored different types of partnerships that contribute to educational breakthroughs for girls and women with a focus on making such partnerships successful and sustainable in the post-2015 period. As part of the event, a new inter-agency joint programme was launched. Called Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education, the joint programme is led by

UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Women and the World Bank. The debate contributed to ongoing consultations on the post-2015 education agenda, including in the context of the World Education Forum 2015, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, which took place in May. The event brought together approximately 200 attendees representing Permanent Missions, civil society organizations and United Nations programmes, funds and agencies.

IMPACT 2030

80. On 24 April 2015, United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened a luncheon discussion featuring founding partners of IMPACT 2030, a global non-profit and private sector-led initiative created to mobilize employee volunteers to directly contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The event brought together representatives of UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other parts of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of the IMPACT 2030 founding partners.

Media for Social Impact Summit

81. On 1 May 2015, PVBLIC Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, jointly convened the second annual Media for Social Impact Summit to highlight the power of media to drive social change and to showcase strategic campaigns about global issues. PVBLIC Foundation is a non-profit media organization that works to pair media space with key non-profit organizations at the local, national and global levels. The Summit gathered more than 400 representatives of the United Nations system and leading media companies and creative agencies to showcase innovative campaigns that promote social progress to outline how media can engage with the United Nations on the Sustainable Development Goals.

82. In a follow-up to the Summit, the Office facilitated a series of discussions between UNEP and the IMAX Corporation, a company that creates entertainment technology and is best known for its big-screen theatres, to explore partnership opportunities and strengthen support by the IMAX Corporation for the objectives of UNEP. On 16 March 2016, UNEP and the IMAX Corporation launched a partnership initiative called "Big Picture", which aims to address a host of environmental, societal and economic issues. The campaign seeks to leverage the power of film to raise awareness and promote appreciation for the "big picture": the understanding that actions we take in our daily lives can have a significant impact on the future of the planet. Through film, the partnership between the two entities intends to promote solutions for climate change as well as actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Global Insurance Forum

83. On 17 June 2015, as part of the annual Global Insurance Forum of the International Insurance Society, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Society, in consultation with the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team, jointly convened a meeting of the Forum at United Nations Headquarters. The event gathered United Nations officials, representatives of Member States, leaders of insurance companies, research institutions and civil society organizations to explore

the role of the insurance industry in creating partnership initiatives to support the emerging Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on economic growth, financial stability, affordable health care and global environmental security. The Forum provided a platform to discuss specific collaborative initiatives aimed at mitigating global disaster and climate change risks and supporting sustainable economies. As a follow-up to the Forum, the Office has been working with the International Insurance Society to further the engagement of the insurance industry with the United Nations system to strengthen their support in achieving the Goals. In September 2015, the Society announced its commitment towards the Secretary-General's Every Woman, Every Child initiative.

Nexus Global Youth Summit on Innovative Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship

84. From 23 to 25 July 2015, Nexus and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the fifth annual Nexus Global Youth Summit on Innovative Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship at United Nations Headquarters. With several thousand members from 70 countries, Nexus is a non-profit global engagement platform that mobilizes young investors, social entrepreneurs and philanthropists to inspire a new generation of leadership committed to philanthropic giving and social impact investing. The fifth annual Summit aimed to catalyse innovative collaboration to strengthen support for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Millennium Campus Conference

85. From 12 to 14 August 2015, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Millennium Campus Network, a non-profit organization, convened the seventh annual Millennium Campus Conference at United Nations Headquarters. The Conference gathered more than 500 university student leaders from more than 50 countries to provide an interactive education and discussion platform about the role of students in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

IV. Conclusions

86. Mr. Turner's historic philanthropic contribution through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has contributed significantly to an increased mobilization of resources and increased expertise of business and non-governmental entities in support of the goals of the United Nations.

87. The United Nations Democracy Fund is now 11 years old and has proven to be a highly innovative and effective initiative. It has successfully complemented the work of many United Nations agencies that concentrate on the "supply" side of democratic institutions by focusing on the "demand" side through grants to local civil society organizations.

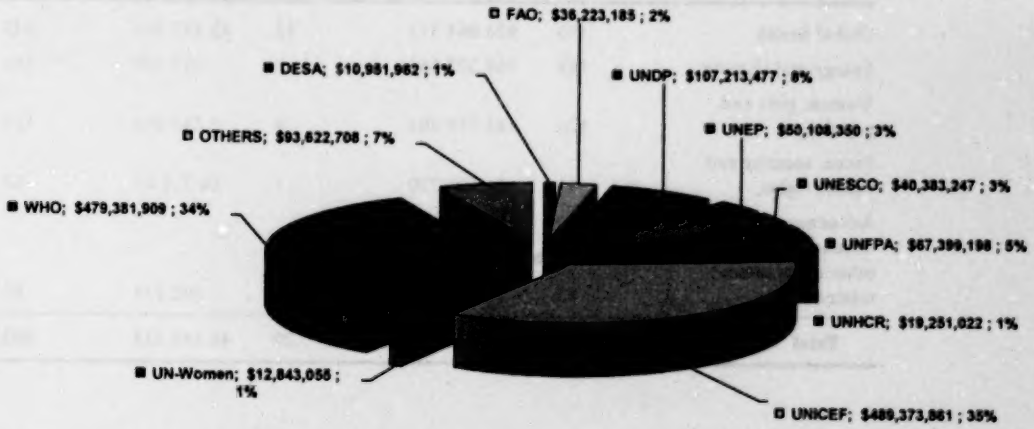
88. The operations of UNFIP and the United Nations Democracy Fund remain the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office has continued to convene events to increase awareness and mobilize action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and provide advisory services to a wide range of public and private stakeholders.

Annex I

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects

A. Cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2015, distributed by implementing partners

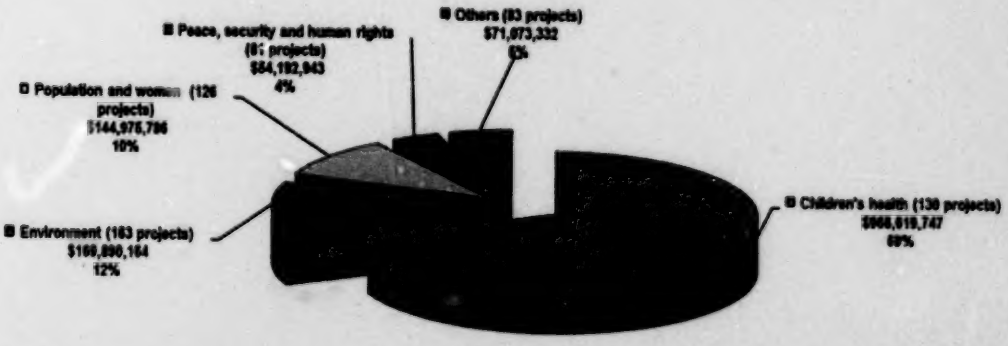
($1,406,751,972)



Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

B. Thematic distribution of projects approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2015

($1,406,751,972)



Annex II

Projects approved by the United Nations Foundation in 2015 and in prior years, by programme area

(United States dollars)

	1998-2014		*2015*		*1998-2015*	
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of Projects*	*Value*
Global health	130	924 064 373	13	42 555 373	143	966 619 747
Energy and climate	163	169 322 664	3	567 500	166	169 890 164
Women, girls and population	126	142 729 784	8	2 246 002	134	144 975 786
Peace, security and human rights	61	54 108 730	1	84 212.89	62	54 192 942
Advocacy, communication and other development-related issues	83	70 381 097	4	692 234	87	71 073 331
Total	**563**	**1 360 606 649**	**29**	**46 145 323**	**592**	**1 406 751 972**

Annex III

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2015

Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General (Chair)

Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (until 14 September 2015)

Ambassador Andrej Logar, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (since 15 September 2015)

Ambassador Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and Social Council (until 23 July 2015)

Ambassador Oh Joon, President of the Economic and Social Council (since 24 July 2015)

Ms. Susan M. Davis, former President and Chief Executive Officer, BRAC USA

Mr. Luis A. Ubiñas, President of the Board of Trustees, Pan American Development Foundation

Mr. Bruce Usher, Faculty Director, Social Enterprise Program, Columbia Business School

Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Ms. Ann de la Roche (member, ex officio), Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Annex IV

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 31 December 2015

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Argentina	25 000
Australia	9 212 424
Bulgaria	10 000
Chile	360 000
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czech Republic	195 780
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	16 179 187
Hungary	75 000
India	31 762 543
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	658 724
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 180 000
Latvia	15 000
Libya	15 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	5 000
Panama	27 000
Peru	73 328
Poland	670 383
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 000 000
Romania	472 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovenia	127 924

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Spain	5 043 311
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	17 874 775
Turkey	265 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	609 350
United States of America	56 076 000
Other	2 230
Total	**169 440 524**

Annex V

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2015

Member States

Australia

Bhutan

Chile

El Salvador

Germany

India

Latvia

Libya

Poland

Sierra Leone

Suriname

Sweden

United States of America

Non-governmental organizations

Action Aid International

Avaaz

Individuals

Ms. Aracelly Santana

Ms. Marjorie Tiven

Mr. Jeffrey Wright